

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) Process for producing pipe sleeves made of mineral wool for insulating pipelines or for reducing the sound level in pipeline systems, comprising:
  - a) providing a continuous nonwoven web suitable for winding about a mandrel, the nonwoven web made of mineral wool which is provided with an uncured binder;
  - b) winding up the nonwoven web on a winding mandrel of a winder in a manner whereby a leading end of the nonwoven web overlaps a trailing end of the nonwoven web to form a coil about the mandrel;
  - c) curing the binder;  
feeding supplying at least one reinforcing layer into the winder before the nonwoven web runs into the winder during the winding up of the nonwoven web to at least partially embed the reinforcing layer within the roll of nonwoven web, thereby providing said at least one reinforcing layer before inclusion of the nonwoven web in the pipe sleeve, and providing said at least one reinforcing layer in such a way that during the winding said reinforcing layer becomes an integral constituent part of the pipe sleeve produced as a result; and  
providing an outer sheath reinforcing layer added to a trailing end section of the nonwoven web such that whereby a leading end of the outer sheath reinforcing layer overlaps the trailing end section of the nonwoven web, after providing the reinforcing layer in such a way that said outer sheath reinforcing layer comes to lie on the outside of the pipe sleeve with the effect of a lamination, as an outer layer, the outer sheath reinforcing layer thereby including the leading end of the outer sheath reinforcing layer wound into the coil, arranged around the full circumference, and extending completely circumferentially around the coil.

2. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the at least one reinforcing layer is applied to the nonwoven web in such a way that said reinforcing layer is wound up with said nonwoven web and, following winding, is present within the pipe sleeve.
3. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 2, characterized in that the reinforcing layer comprises a plurality of separate strips, which are in each case placed on the nonwoven web and are then wound up together with the latter.
4. (cancelled)
5. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the at least one reinforcing layer is applied to the winding mandrel before the winding of the nonwoven web in such a way that said reinforcing layer provides the inner surface of the pipe sleeve determining the clear internal diameter of the pipe sleeve.
6. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer is a glass nonwoven or a woven glass fibre fabric.
7. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer is wetted with additional binder before being provided for the winding operation.
8. (previously presented) Pipe sleeve made of mineral wool for insulating pipelines or for reducing the sound level in pipeline systems, the pipe sleeve formed of a wound nonwoven web with cured binder produced by means of a process according to Claim 1.

9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer is enclosed within the wound layers.

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) Pipe sleeve made of mineral wool for sound-level reduction in pipeline systems, in particular of heating installations or ventilation systems, characterized in that:

    said pipe sleeve has at least one reinforcing layer which provides the inner surface of the pipe sleeve that determines the clear internal diameter of the pipe sleeve,

    a roll of ~~continuous~~-nonwoven web made of mineral wool wound about a mandrel supplied in a manner whereby at least a portion of the nonwoven web overlaps at least another portion of the nonwoven web to form a coil about the mandrel,

    an outer sheath reinforcing layer in the form of a trickle guard is wound circumferentially around said pipe sleeve, the outer sheath added to a trailing end of the roll of ~~continuous~~-nonwoven web and wound fully circumferentially around the roll of ~~continuous~~-nonwoven web with a leading end of the outer sheath reinforcing layer overlapping the trailing end of the roll of ~~continuous~~-nonwoven web, at least partially embedded within the roll of nonwoven web thereby including the leading end of the outer sheath reinforcing layer wound into the coil, arranged around the full circumference, and extending completely circumferentially around the coil, and

    the outer sheath reinforcing layer provided as one of or a combination of a glass nonwoven or a woven glass fibre fabric; or includes one of a particulate material, a particulate infrared radiation absorbing material or a particulate heat shielding material;

or includes one of a foil material, or a heat reflective foil containing a metal; or is treated with a biocide agent.

14. (cancelled)
15. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer includes one of a particulate material, a particulate infrared radiation absorbing material or a particulate heat shielding material.
16. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer includes one of a foil material, or a heat reflective foil containing a metal.
17. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer is treated with a biocide agent.
18. (cancelled)
19. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer is a glass nonwoven or a woven E-glass fibre fabric.
20. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer includes one of a foil material, or a heat reflective foil containing aluminum metal.